

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
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R 251448Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6111
INFO USDOEHQ WASHDC
USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT
DOE FOR AMMONS, IA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, OCON, IAEA, XA, EG, NG
SUBJECT: DESIGNATED SEATS ON IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS:
NIGER CONTESTS SEAT HELD BY EGYPT

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED CIRCULAR NOTE FROM EMBASSY OF NIGER (BRUSSELS) ANNOUNCING "CANDIDACY" OF NIGER FOR BOARD SEAT RESERVED FOR REGION OF AFRICA AMONG "REGIONALLY MOST ADVANCED" PURSUANT ARTICLE 6 A.1 OF IAEA STATUTE. ANNOUNCEMENT THUS CHALLENGES BOARD'S RE-DESIGNATION OF EGYPT TO THAT SEAT IN WHICH IT REPLACED SOUTH AFRICA IN HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL BOARD ACTION IN JUNE 1977.
2. EGYPTIAN CHARGE (NAMEK) INFORMED MISOFF THAT ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EGYPT OR WITH CHAIRMAN OF AFRICAN GROUP (TUNISIA). NIGER'S REP TO APRIL 21 BOARD MEETING (AMB MESSAN, RESIDENT BRUSSELS) TOLD NAMEK THAT NIGER'S CLAIM TO DESIGNATION WAS BASED ON ITS POSITION AS A MAJOR EXPORTER OF URANIUM. MESSAN ADDED VIEW THAT DESIGNATED SEAT FOR AFRICA SHOULD BE ROTATED IN SAME MANNER AS SEAT FOR LA REGION. NAMEK, WHO WAS

UNDERSTANDABLY DISTURBED BY THIS TURN OF EVENTS,
TOLD MISOFF THAT NONE OF THE FIVE AFRICAN
REPS RESIDENT IN VIENNA SUPPORT NIGER'S CANDIDACY
SINCE, HE ARGUED, PRODUCTION OF SOURCE MATERIAL WAS
NOT IN ITSELF APPROPRIATE BASIS FOR DESIGNATION.
MOREOVER, NIGER SELDOM IF EVER PARTICIPATED IN
WORK OF AGENCY INCLUDING ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS
OF BOARD TO WHICH IT WAS ELECTED IN 1976. MISOFF
POINTED OUT THAT THIS LATTER REMARK SOUNDED LIKE
AN ARGUMENT AGAINST ADDITIONAL BOARD SEATS FOR
AFRICAN REGION SINCE ONLY A HANDFUL OF THE 25 AF
MEMBER STATES EVER PARTICIPATED IN AGENCY AFFAIRS.

3. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT NIGER'S "CANDIDACY"
WILL RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT IN AF REGION, LET
ALONE AMONG NON-AF BOARD MEMBERS. AF MEMBERS AND
OTHERS IN G-77 WILL GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO AVOID
POSSIBILITY OF SOUTH AFRICA BENEFITING FROM
A SPLIT IN G-77 RANKS IN JUNE WHEN BOARD DESIGNATES
"ADVANCED" MEMBERS TO 1978-79 BOARD. MISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS RE DESIGNATION ISSUE IN SEPARATE
CONTEXT FOLLOWS IN LATER MESSAGE.

4. COPY OF NIGER NOTE POUCHED IO/SCT FOR JILLSON.
KIRK

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Message Attributes

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